

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 /059 W

----- 064920

R 080930Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8060

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CZ, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV VIEW OF CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION

1. DURING CALL ON YUGOSLAV DCM RODIC MAY 7, DCM ASKED HIS VIEWS ON INTERNAL SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. DCM NOTED THAT POLITIKA DESPATCH WAS BEING WIDELY QUOTED AROUND TOWN TO EFFECT THAT HUSAK WOULD BECOME PRESIDENT SHORTLY AFTER MAY 9. THIS YUGOSLAV ARTICLE HAD HELPED REV UP THE RUMOR MILL, AND WE WONDERED WHAT INFORMATION THEY HAD.

2. RODIC SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE POLITIKA ARTICLE BUT THE YUGOSLAVS DID THINK HUSAK WOULD ASCEND TO THE PRESIDENCY PERHAPS BY THE END OF MAY, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT DIRECTLY AFTER MAY 9. THE EARLIER AGREEMENT TO WAIT FOR SVOBODA'S CONFIDENTIAL

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DEATH BEFORE NAMING A NEW PRESIDENT WAS COMING UNGLUED,

BECAUSE TOO MANY THINGS WERE HANGING FIRE. THE YUGOSLAVS STILL THOUGHT HUSAK WOULD DEFINITELY RETAIN THE PARTY GENERAL SECRETARYSHIP AS WELL.

3. AS FOR THE ANTI-DUBCEK CAMPAIGN, THE YUGOSLAVS THOUGHT HUSAK HAD BEEN FORCED INTO IT BY EXTREME PRESSURE FROM THE HARD-LINERS ("RADICALS"). IN ORDER TO SHOW THEM WHO WAS IN CHARGE, HUSAK HAD TO STEAL THEIR THUNDER BY THIS STRONG ATTACK ON DUBCEK AND HIS FRIENDS. THIS WAS ONE ELEMENT. ANOTHER WAS THAT "THE OPPOSITION" HAD BECOME ANNOYING, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF CSCE AND EUROPEAN CP CONFERENCE AND SO ON. RODIC SAID "THE OPPOSITION" WAS STILL PLANNING THINGS, INCLUDING THE 200-PAGE DOCUMENT THAT HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN THE PRESS; AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DUBCEK HAD WRITTEN SOME OTHER THINGS. HUSAK WANTED TO NIP THIS CAMPAIGN IN BUD BY SHOWING HIS FIST.

4. ASKED ABOUT FUTURE OF ANTI-DUBCEK CAMPAIGN, RODIC SAID AFTER MAY 9 YUGOSLAVS EXPECTED AN EXTREMELY STRONG RESUMPTION OF THE CAMPAIGN WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME "ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES" (TRIALS AND THE LIKE). THE PARTY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE BEING SEIZED WITH THE CAMPAIGN (ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A LOT OF QUESTIONING AS TO WHY NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO READ THE DUBCEK LETTER BEFORE CONDEMNING IT). THE YUGOSLAVS EXPECTED A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN.

5. ASKED ABOUT HUSAK'S POSITION, RODIC SAID THEY SAW NO REASON TO THINK HE HAD SLIPPED, ALTHOUGH HE HAD CERTAINLY BEEN UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE. HE ATTRIBUTED BREZHNEV'S FAILURE TO COME TO PRAGUE TO SOVIET RATHER THAN CZECHOSLOVAK REASONS (I.E., NON-VISIT DID NOT MEAN LACK OF SUPPORT FOR HUSAK, EVEN IF SOME OUTSIDERS MIGHT CERTAINLY TAKE IT THAT WAY).

6. THIS LED TO DISCUSSION OF KREMLIN DEVELOPMENTS. RODIC SAID FALL OF SHELEPIN WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, BUT HE WAS NOT YET SURE WHICH POLICY ISSUES SHELEPIN HAD BEEN FIGHTING BREZHNEV ON AND THEREFORE WHAT SPECIFICALLY HAD CAUSED HIS DOWNFALL. RODIC FOUND IT CURIOUS THAT AGENDA FOR CPSU CONGRESS WAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED, AND FELT THE LEADERS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEBATING THIS, WHILE THE JOCKEYING FOR POSITION WAS GOING ON WHICH WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL FEBRUARY. HE WONDERED IF BREZHNEV'S DECISION NOT TO COME TO PRAGUE MIGHT BE CONNECTED WITH DESIRE NOT TO BE AWAY WHEN POST-SHELEPIN-DOWNFALL DELIBERATIONS WERE GOING ON.

7. FINALLY, RODIC SAID THAT FROM YUGOSLAV VIEWPOINT, MOST DANGEROUS THING ABOUT THE ANTI-DUBCEK CAMPAIGN WAS THAT FOR

FIRST TIME, HUSAK AND OTHERS WERE SAYING THAT SOCIALISM, I.E.  
THAT BREZHNEV DOCTRINE WAS REAL AND BINDING. IMPLICATIONS  
FOR YUGOSLAVIA FOR THIS LINE (AND NOT ONLY YUGOSLAVIA, HE  
SAID) WERE OMINOUS, AND THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ITS PRESENT  
USAGE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

PERRY

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